

Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SCCT-01 EB-07 OMB-01 /074 W
----- 118135

R 060600Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3762

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 00015

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: RECENT INCIDENTS IN ERITREA

REF: NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA 041910Z JAN 76 (NOTAL)

1. FIREFIGHT REPORTED REFTTEL WHICH BEGAN AT 2100 HOURS AND
SUBSIDED AT 2130 HOURS JAN. 4 WAS APPARENTLY SPARKED BY SMALL
GROUP OF INSURGENTS FOLLOWING STANDARD PATTERN OF HIT AND RUN,
AND AS USUAL CAUSING NO CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE. UNVARIFIED REPORT
WAS RECEIVED FROM LOCAL SOURCE CLAIMED THAT MAJOR ELEMENT IN
FIREFIGHT WAS EXCHANGE OF SHOTS BETWEEN EPMG GUARDS AT MAIN
BRANCH OF COMMERCIAL BANK IN CENTRAL ASMARA, AND ETHIOPIAN
COLONEL WHO WAS DRIVING BY BANK IN VIOLATION OF CURFEW. REPORT
CLAIMS THAT COLONEL WAS KILLED IN EXCHANGE.

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2. REPORT FROM RELIABLE SOURCE CLAIMS THAT INSURGENTS HALTED
UNGUARDED RAILROAD TRAIN FROM ASMARA TO MASSAWA AND OFF-LOADED
20 TONS OF SESAME SEED DESTINED FOR EXPORT. TRAINS, WHICH ARE
UNGUARDED BY EPMG IN TACIT UNDERSTANDING WITH REBELS THAT IN
RETURN REBELS WILL NOT DESTROY VULNERABLE BRIDGES OR TUNNELS,
WAS ALLOWED TO PROCEED TO MASSAWA. REPORT STATES THAT REBELS
PLACED GUARDS ON PYRAMIDS OF SESAME SEED FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND
THAT REBELS WERE NOT MOLESTED BY EPMG SECURITY FORCES IN AREA.
AS SESAME SEED IS NOT GENERALLY PART OF LOCAL DIET, THIS ACT
COULD ONLY BE DIRECTED AGAINST EPMG EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN MINIMAL
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.
WAUCHOPE

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Message Attributes

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